

THE WEATHER FORECAST.  
Rain or snow to-day; to-morrow fair  
and colder; fresh winds.  
Highest temperature yesterday, 35; lowest, 25.  
Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 5.

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ONE CENT

In Greater New York, Jersey City and Newark, Two CENTS Elsewhere

## PALACES TO BE IN HAMLETS BY TREASURY RAID

Omnibus Public Building  
Bill Would Beautify South-  
ern Villages.

## LAW'S REQUIREMENT IS OPENLY DODGED

\$10,000,000 of Total Appropria-  
tion Proposed Is De-  
clared to Be Needless.

## LOSS PREDICTED ON MANY VENTURES

Mt. Olive, N. C., and Hazard,  
Ky., Are Among the  
Places Favored.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—In the trinity of "pork" measures which the Democrats are preparing to jam through Congress this session while they have a substantial majority, the omnibus public building bill is disclosed by a review of its multitudinous appropriations for insignificant Southern hamlets to be one of the boldest Treasury raids in years. Of the more than 400 projects provided for in the bill of Representative Frank Clark of Florida, who has been described as the "champion pork getter" of the House, scores and scores are for small villages in the South whose populations range from 1,000 or less to 5,000 and whose annual postal receipts do not reach the sum of \$10,000.

Although the law provides that the postal receipts must reach at least \$10,000 where appropriations for post office buildings alone are made, this requirement is sidestepped in a number of instances in order to give various localities the fine new public buildings to which they apparently have no rightful claim.

**\$10,000,000 Waste.**  
The public building bill carries with it appropriations aggregating about \$28,000,000. Of this, by an official statement from the Treasury Department, nearly \$10,000,000, or more than one-fourth, is needless, unwise and extravagant. If an estimate of the proportion of "pork" in the bill were to be made by a committee of experts connected in no way with the Democratic Administration it may be presumed that the proportion would be increased pronouncedly.

But according to the admissions of the Treasury Department itself, more than 25 per cent. of the appropriations will probably prove unprofitable ventures for the Government. With the public building bill stand the Flood reclamation carrying appropriations of \$45,000,000, and the river and harbor bill, whose appropriations probably will reach \$40,000,000—a grand total in appropriations of more than \$120,000,000, which a large part admittedly is "pork."

Consider the little village of Mount Olive, N. C., typical though not an extreme example. Here the omnibus bill which Southern Congressmen are emptying the pork barrel for the benefit of their constituents, Mount Olive has a population of little more than 1,000. Its postal receipts last year were only \$5,679.28, about half of the amount required by law before a town shall have a building for its post office alone.

**\$20,000 Post Office.**  
But Mount Olive, by the provisions of the Clark bill, is to have a brand new post office costing \$20,000, and space in it is desired for no other Federal activities than the post office. The maintenance of the new building, the Treasury Department estimates, will be about \$4,000 a year, whereas the annual rent for the building in which the post office now is situated is only \$420.

Then there is the case of Hazard, Ky. Hazard has a population of only a few hundreds—527, according to the 1910 census. It is to get a post office building. The bill states that the appropriation for "site and post office, mine rescue station and other Federal activities" for it is understood that the post office is the only Federal activity actually desiring space in the building.

Hazard, which aspires to this fine new structure, is found to have had postal receipts in 1915 of only \$4,477, less than half the amount required. The annual rent in the present building is only \$250. The maintenance of the new structure, it is estimated, will cost about \$3,800. Thus the Government, besides making a large initial outlay, will be forced to make future annual expenditures for maintenance from ten to fifteen times the amount previously laid out for rental.

**Eminence, Ky., to the Fore.**  
Eminence, Ky., is in the same category with Hazard and Mount Olive. There is a \$40,000 appropriation for Eminence, the bill states, "for the purpose that the money is for a post office alone as no other Federal activities are mentioned. The 1910 census gave Eminence a population of 1,217. The post office receipts last year were only \$4,492.53. The present rental for post office quarters there is only \$152 a year. But the cost of keeping up the new building will be in excess of \$2,700.

Green River, Wyo., is one of the rare northern villages to be favored for appropriations of this nature. It is to get a \$25,000 building for post office use, although the postal receipts last year were only \$4,370.18. Representative Henderson received credit for obtaining this appropriation.

Roseville, Ga., in Representative Lee's district, will get a \$25,000 building for the civil service. Roseville has a population of about 1,200 and its postal receipts last year were only \$4,062.48. The maintenance of the new building is annually, although the rental now is only \$298.

A new building for Huntington, Tenn., will cost \$25,000. Huntington had postal receipts in 1915 of only \$4,427.28. Space in the building is desired by the

## "RAIN OR SNOW" EXPECTED BY WEATHER BUREAU

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Northern New England and the Great Lakes region are assured of a white Christmas, according to the weather bureau forecasts, and rain or snow is to be looked for over the Middle Atlantic States, with fair weather and moderate temperatures elsewhere east of the Mississippi.

## GREETINGS FROM AIR SENT TO AERO CLUB

Charles Reid's Odd "Merry Christmas" Acknowledged by Friends on Balcony.

Charles Reid, banker and aviator, combined his hobby with the spirit of the season yesterday by sending Christmas greetings to his friends at the Aero Club by airplane. Hundreds saw him high in the air over the home of all New York aviation on Madison avenue yesterday, his machine circling and curving over the East River bridges, turned in at Forty-second street, and circled southward to the club. There he cut a number of spirals and "figure eights" until a lone watcher at the club window spotted him and called the rest.

President Alan R. Hawley, Henry Woodhouse and a number of others came out to greet him. Then Mr. Reid turned back, circled over the Statue of Liberty, and turned his machine in at the hangar.

## FAIRBANKS' RACE WITH DEATH VAIN

Douglas and His Brothers  
Reach New York Too Late  
to See Dying Mother.

Douglas Fairbanks, racing eastward with the hope of reaching his mother's bedside before her death, managed to arrive in New York yesterday afternoon at Chicago for ten minutes after the scheduled starting time of the road's track train, which was as long as the railroad officials could make. Then Mr. Fairbanks arrived at the station to find the express gone.

Immediately he tried to get a special train, but his efforts were in vain. John, who was in Denver, and Robert, who was in Idaho, when word reached them that their mother was dangerously ill at the Hotel Seymour here, Douglas in time to reach Manhattan, supposing the tracks had been clear, late Saturday afternoon.

But the snow and snow knocked train schedules askew. When Douglas Fairbanks asked for a special train in Chicago he was told that under normal conditions it would be made by Saturday afternoon under pressure in seventeen hours. But he was told, because of the storm, the best thing for him to do was to jump aboard the first regular train.

As a result he reached here at 6:30 o'clock yesterday morning, or just about six hours after his mother had died.

Fairbanks, who for years traveled with her son before he became a motion picture actor and endured the hardships of the one night stands to be with him, realized almost until her last moment that her three sons were doing their best to reach her before she died.

The Rev. Father Vincent of St. McGee, who administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic church to Mrs. Fairbanks, said last night that in all his experiences with the dying he never had seen any one put up so hard a fight for life as Mrs. Fairbanks did so that she might live to see her sons.

John Fairbanks finally got into town early yesterday afternoon and his brother Robert arrived last night. All of Mrs. Fairbanks' sons would have been here before she died if it had not been for the storm.

## COAST GUARD CUTTER SAVES BARK NEPTHIS

Brazilian Derelict Picked Up  
After Hawser Had Parted  
in Snowstorm.

The Brazilian bark Neptis, which, after a tussle with tumbling seas, in tow of the Brazilian tug Garibaldi, parted her hawser in a snowstorm on the night of December 15, about thirty-five miles southeast of Fire Island, is on her way to this port in charge of the coast guard cutter Seneca. At noon yesterday the cutter, under the command of Lt. Comdr. J. J. Connelley, picked up the derelict. The Italian steamship Sargana, from the Mediterranean for this port, came along later and took off all hands, landing them here somewhat crippled from exposure.

The Garibaldi, which put in here to coal, started out after the Neptis, hoping to find her where she had dropped her hawser. Other gales had taken charge of her and she had dragged anchor into the deep. The Seneca, chief philanthropist of the North Atlantic, beat the Garibaldi to the derelict. This means that the owners of the Neptis will not have to pay a cent for her saving. Uncle Sam not having the right to tax anybody for the gallantry of his able seamen of the Coast Guard Service. But maybe the Seneca's bark will give the crew of the cutter a Christmas present.

## 100,000 TOIL TO SANTARELLI? CHEER OTHERS ASK VIRGINIA

Record Breaking Christmas  
Business Keeps Delivery  
Forces Rushing.

Her Doubts Settled 19 Years  
Ago, She Reveals Secret  
Now to Baby.

NO TIME EVEN TO SLEEP  
New York City's Holiday Bill  
Estimated as Approach-  
ing \$150,000,000.

At least 100,000 persons in Manhattan alone worked all day yesterday and will work all day today that others may have a happy Christmas. Very many of them, indeed, were required by the record breaking business demands of this Christmas to be on the job practically all of Saturday night and last night, snatching a little sleep here and there as they were relieved from time to time.

The general manager of one of the largest department stores in the city said today to a reporter for THE SUN yesterday that the cheerful willingness of his 3,000 employees to keep peering away at a time when others were merrily making seemed to him one of the finest exhibitions of Christmas good will that he had ever seen; and he did not doubt that the same spirit of good natured self-sacrifice was to be found in the other big shops and in the various other service institutions.

The big department stores and some of the smaller ones were delivering Christmas purchases from daylight yesterday morning until very late last night, after spending Saturday night in assembling deliveries and loading them into hundreds of horse wagons and motor cars. The express companies rushed wagons from one end of the city to the other. The post office, breaking a rule of business standing distributed tons of parcels post Christmas gifts. These activities were all additional, of course, to the customary necessary work of a Sunday and were put in the tremendous demands of this holiday season.

**\$150,000,000 Spent.**  
Flush times, a general money spending frenzy, late Christmas shopping all day, part making the day before Christmas and a Sunday at that—one of the hardest days that a vast army of department store, express company and post office employees ever had to endure. The Christmas bill is estimated as approaching \$150,000,000, and an astonishingly large part of it was spent in the last few days before Christmas day, almost the last day, in fact.

The result was that the department stores after shutting up shop to the buyers several days ago, were forced to look up until 10 P. M. were forced to concentrate their energy and ingenuity on making deliveries before Christmas day was over. The stores were crowded with baby things and a perfect mountain of gifts for Laura Virginia.

When the baby scrambles from the cradle, the store manager will find that Santa Claus has left for her these things: A heavy muff and dolls, dolls' furniture and kitchen outfit, an automobile that GOES, a sled, a real piano (little girl size), picture books and heaps of toys. And when it comes to the Christmas tree, granddaddy O'Hanlon will put his specs upon the bridge of his nose, hold up a finger for complete silence and read for Laura Virginia's name in the list of names that was written to bring sunshine to the soul of Virginia—and every other child.

## ASLEEP SINCE MARNE BATTLE

Soldier's Condition for 27 Months  
Called Mysterious Lethargy.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 24.—The curious case of a soldier, a member of the 101st Central Postal Directory, who has been in a state of lethargy for twenty-seven months has been described to the Medical and Surgical Society by Prof. Verger.

The patient was among the troops mobilized for the battle of the Marne. He disappeared, but was found shortly after in Britain, since which time he has been in a state of lethargy. His respiration regular, but pulse rapid. He is sensitive to excitement, says the description of the case given by Prof. Verger, such as the sight of a store window, the sight of a Christmas tree, the sight of a woman, and it is possible to administer liquid food.

Prof. Verger concludes that the case is one of hysterical lethargy and that it is likely the man will eventually awake and resume his normal occupation.

## SANTA WEDGED IN CHIMNEY.

Bloomfield Cop Finds Him Jammed  
Head Downward in Fireplace.

Santa Claus, or at least the negro edition of Kris, owes his life and liberty to Big Jack Marshall, the heavyweight policeman of Bloomfield, N. J. For Santa Claus got wedged in the chimney while en route with a bag of toys for little Sam Jackson, and Big Jack had to pull out a section of the cabin wall to free him.

The policeman was on his way home yesterday morning when he was stopped by Sam, a diminutive youngster and very black, who told him through capricious chatter that Santa needed his help. The two hurried to the house, drawn by frantic cries that could be heard several blocks. In an open fireplace, wedged head downward, was the little Sam Jackson. The very force was applied with wool whisks and all the other appliances, but he was very sooty and he wanted to stop playing Santa Claus.

## WAR TIME DUEL UNPATRIOTIC.

So Deputy Veber and Capt. Tinsley  
Call Off Their Canisters.

PARIS, Saturday, Dec. 23.—A duel between Frenchmen in war times would be a real offense against patriotism. Such was the formal declaration signed today by the second of Deputy Adrien Veber and Capt. Charles Tinsley, and the proposed encounter was abandoned.

The two men had engaged in an argument in which a blow was said to have been struck, a challenge following.

**Edgar Bouligny Wounded Again.**  
Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.  
PARIS, Dec. 24.—Edgar Bouligny, of New Orleans, who is a sergeant in the French Foreign Legion, has been wounded. Though his wound is not dangerous, he is now in the American Ambulance Hospital. This is the third time Bouligny has been wounded.

## HARDEN URGES TRUCE AT ONCE

German Editor Declares  
Cash Indemnity Cannot  
Be Hoped For.

Frames an Address for Father-  
land to Make to a Cleansed  
Europe.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.  
LONDON, Dec. 24.—An armistice should be declared at once, according to Maximilian Harden, who writes as follows in Die Zukunft:

"Whence, I ask, shall the money come to wipe out the war loans, to pay for the reconstruction of the land, for the rebuilding of destroyed cities and villages, for supplies, for the decent maintenance of the crippled, the helpless, the widows, the orphans?"

"A cash indemnity, which, by the way, would look quite tiny alongside these tremendous figures, cannot be hoped for even by the most triumphant victor. As for the levy of a tribute extorted by occupation lasting decades, such a thing was possible in the days of Rome. To-day it is just as impossible as the realization of the dream foolishly fostered by so many, the extinction of whole races and peoples."

"None of the nations caught in this holocaust can expect any recompense other than such as is produced by their own savings. Only new thoughts, not old embittered ones, can open the gates that lead out of this hell."

**Treasure of Atonement.**  
"Let Europe's war debts become a treasure of atonement, let the credits of all belligerents, that is, those ready to accept arbitration, become good money guaranteed by all debtors until the countries freed from war can redeem their international instrument by payment with national money, metal or paper. It will take forty years at least, sixty at most."

"After the conclusion of peace let a court of nations administer the treasure of atonement. Give this court authority to impose fines upon those who discover its verdict. Invalidate, call in and destroy the securities of the nation that breaks the peace unless its very life is menaced."

"Such is the basis upon which you may build a true European community bond which will hold the members together yet will not strangle or throttle them."

## PATRICK WILL MARRY OIL MAN'S DAUGHTER

Engagement of Man Sentenced  
Three Times to Die Is  
Announced.

TELEA, Okla., Dec. 24.—Albert T. Patrick, wealthy oil man, who was sentenced three times to die in Sing Sing Prison on the charge of killing William Marsh Rice of New York, announced here today his engagement to Miss Mildred West, daughter of a Tulsa oil operator. They will be married in June.

Patrick was pardoned November 27, 1913, after a long fight, in which his late wife, who was before her marriage Mrs. Addie M. Francis, played a prominent part. She spent the money to get Patrick out of prison.

The engagement was announced by Governor Higgins and later his pardon, by Governor Dix were due in large part to the success of Mrs. Patrick in influencing public opinion in favor of her husband. She was married to Patrick in the Tombs shortly following his first conviction.

## TANK SHIP OUTRIDES GALE.

Engines Are Disabled, but Emanuel  
Nobels's Anchors Hold.

HAIKUPA, N. E. Dec. 24.—The Belgian motor ship Emanuel Nobel, in peril off Sober Island, rode out the storm in safety. At sunrise today the ship's anchors still held and fears for her situation were relieved when the wind died down.

Her engines are disabled and assistance has been sent to try to bring her into harbor. The Nobel is bound from Rouen, France, for Newport News.

## LONG MAY BE LANSING'S AID.

St. Louis Man Indicated for Assistant  
Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Brookbridge Long of St. Louis probably will be nominated by President Wilson as Assistant Secretary of State to succeed John E. Osborne of Wyoming, who resigned recently.

Mr. Long is a lawyer and has taken a prominent part in politics as a Democrat.

## SWISS BACK WILSON PLEA IN NOTE TO BELLIGERENTS; OTHER NEUTRALS TO ACT

Switzerland's Note to Belligerents  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Switzerland in a note to all of the warring Powers, sent yesterday, has announced its support of President Wilson's appeal for a discussion of peace terms.

The text follows:  
The President of the United States of America, with whom the Swiss Federal Council, guided by its warm desire that the hostilities may soon come to an end, has for a considerable time been in touch, has the kindness to apprise the Federal Council of the peace note sent to the Governments of the Central and Entente Powers. In this note President Wilson discusses the great desirability of international agreements for the purpose of avoiding more effectively and permanently the occurrence of catastrophes such as the one under which the people are suffering to-day. In this connection he lays particular stress on the necessity for bringing about the end of the present war. Without making peace proposals himself or offering mediation, he confines himself to sounding as to whether mankind may hope to have approached the haven of peace.

The most praiseworthy personal initiative of President Wilson will find a mighty echo in Switzerland. True to the obligation arising from observing the strictest neutrality, united by the same friendship with the States of both warring groups of Powers, situated like an island amidst the seething waves of the terrible world war, with its ideal and material interests most sensibly jeopardized and violated, our country is filled with a deep longing for peace, and ready to assist by its small means to stop the endless sufferings caused by the war and brought before its eyes by daily contact with the interned, the severely wounded and those expelled and to establish the foundations for a beneficial cooperation of the peoples.

The Swiss Federal Council is therefore glad to seize the opportunity to support the efforts of the President of the United States. It would consider itself happy if it could act in any, no matter how modest, way for the rapprochement of the peoples now engaged in the struggle and for reaching a lasting peace.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Dec. 24.—Announcing that the Swiss Minister at Berlin is about to present Switzerland's peace note to the Imperial German Chancellor, the *Vossische Zeitung* says that peace notes from other neutral countries are expected in the course of the week.

**SWISS PLAN 5 WEEKS FORMING TO WIN RUSSIA**  
Note Reveals Berlin and Washington Conferred on Peace in November.

special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.  
PARIS, Dec. 24.—Switzerland's note, supporting that of President Wilson, is accepted as continuing the series begun by the United States of peace notes to neutral nations. Notes from Holland, Spain and other neutrals are expected to follow. The revelation that President Wilson has been in communication with Switzerland since five weeks ago gives the note its chief interest.

"Without that," says *Le Journal*, "we might almost have believed it as a platonic manifestation, but evidently we are in the presence of the first outlines of an understanding between neutrals who suffer from the war."

"The movement merits careful attention from the Allies. We must not allow ourselves to be misled by the polemical discussions of principles are started, there will be no end of them. The only answer for the Allies must be one which will cut short as in flood of debate."

The unanimous vote of the Senate affirming that France cannot conclude peace with an enemy who occupies French territory, coming to the attention of the Swiss people, has stirred anew the French press and public. The action of the Senate gave further indication of the attitude of the Allies toward President Wilson's proposals, and confidence in the Briand Ministry was regarded most favorably.

**LYAUTEY TO DIRECT WAR.**  
New Minister to Have Full Control of France's Part.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Gen. Lyautey, the new Minister of War, last night for the first time participated in the war council, headed by President Poincaré.

It was decided that all questions concerning the preparation and carrying on of the war be under the direction of the Minister of War, who is to be assisted by the Chief of the General Staff and the Chief of the decisions taken and assure the coordination necessary to their execution.

## MEXICO JOINS U. S. IN HYMN ACROSS BORDER

Alternate Stanzas Sung on  
Each Side of Frontier  
Line.

EAGLE PASS, TEX., Dec. 24.—Mexico sang the United States and the United States sang the Mexican carols in an unusual Christmas celebration here to-night, when a member of the choir of the Piedras Negras Roman Catholic Church, standing on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, sang the first stanza of the "Adeste Fideles"—Come Ye Faithful—the second stanza being immediately picked up by a member of the choir of the Eagle Pass Church of Our Lady of Refuge on the Texas bank of the international boundary. Alternating in this manner, the entire hymn was sung.

In the local Roman Catholic Church regular soldiers and Tennessee and Maryland guardsmen sang "Silent Night," the hymn being rendered in three languages, including English, Spanish, Russian, Greek, Syrian and Japanese.

**PRESIDENT SINGS CAROLS.**  
Stands for an Hour on Steps of the Treasury Building.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The President and Mrs. Wilson attended a community Christmas eve celebration here to-day and for more than an hour stood on the steps of the Treasury Department singing Christmas carols with several hundred men, women and children. The celebration was held under the auspices of the Washington Playgrounds Association.

A large Christmas tree has been put up on the second floor of the White House for to-morrow's celebration, in which Josephine Cothran, the President's grandniece, and Ellen McAdoo, his granddaughter, will be the principal guests.

**Red Ball Ordered for To-day.**  
Appropriately enough, Park Commissioner Ward will celebrate Christmas to-day by hosting the red ball above Van Cortlandt Park at 8 o'clock this morning. After several days of testing and doubting the workmen reported last night that the ice was thick enough to bear New York's vast crowds of skaters, and the Commissioner ordered that the lake be thrown open to-day.

**Little Republic Makes Proposal Along Lines of United States.**  
PRESIDENT'S NOTE MYSTIFIES FRANCE  
Attitude of the Nation Is to Support Action of Senate.  
BORAH OPPOSES PEACE ALLIANCE  
He Declares United States Should Cling to Washington's Advice.

President Wilson's proposal to the belligerent Powers for a comparison of views in a movement for peace has been followed by a note from Switzerland expressing similar desires.